

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method is provided for converting an Access Point (AP) in a wireless network into a Probe device for performing probe operations. WLAN managers may thus temporarily direct certain APs in the WLAN to instead behave as Probes. Communication between the AP and the stations is re-directed to one or more other APs in the WLAN either before or after the AP transitions into a Probe device. When a system manager determines that enough Probe data has been collected, the Probe device may be transitioned back into an AP. With such an arrangement, a system manager can control the placement and operation of Probes in the WLAN, without the added expense or manual intervention required in providing dedicated Probe devices.